

# THE LEVENSHULME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## REPORT

With the Medical Officer of Health's Compliments.

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Manchester:

JAMES COLLINS & CO. LIMITED, 4, SOUTHGATE.

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1909.

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# Levenshulme Urban District Council.

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## THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration and approval my Twenty-fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your district during the past year, 1908.

The Report is of a favourable character, as it records again a low death-rate, a lower infantile mortality, a moderate occurrence of infectious disease, and a steady and continued advancement of the sanitary conditions of the district.

During the past year the rate of growth of the district has been less than usual during the past few years. 92 new houses were certified by the Surveyor as fit for habitation: in North-West Ward, 2; South-West Ward, 22; North-East Ward, 36; and South-East Ward, 32; and at the end of the year 4382 houses were occupied. The distribution of the houses was reported to me by the Assistant Overseer: North-West Ward, 539; South-West Ward, 863; North-East Ward, 2106; and South-East Ward, 874; and the number of empty houses in the corresponding Wards was found on inquiry to be respectively, 16, 53, 56, and 30, making a total of 155.

The area of the district is 606 acres, 7 of which is inland water, and the areas of the separate Wards are approximately in acres: North-West, 76; South-West, 112; North-East, 228; and South-East, 190. The areas of North-West and South-West Wards are to a very large extent occupied by buildings, the other two Wards still contain a large area of land unoccupied.

The population at the middle of the year was estimated to be about 18,600, an increase of 600 over the previous year, and the various rates given throughout the Report are calculated on this basis. The number of persons per acre is 30.7. It is possible to ascertain the number of occupied houses in the district, but not the average number of persons per house without a census, but as the character of our district has not greatly changed, I have made use of the average of 1901, 4.29, and there is good reason to believe the figures are fairly approximate.

The distribution of the population in the various wards and their special rates are shown in Table III.

During the year 476 births were registered—males 240, females 236,—which is equivalent to a birth-rate of 25.59 per thousand of the population. This is lower than that of last year, 27.61, and also than the average for the past ten years, 27.42, and is, in fact, amongst the lowest recorded for the district. From 1877 to 1886 it was 35.04, and from 1887 to 1896, 28.23 per thousand. The excess of births over deaths, or the natural increase, was 269; 8 were illegitimate.

It is probable that the reduction in the birth-rate is compensated by the fall during the same period of the general and infantile mortality, and the result altogether is a gain to the physical welfare of the nation rather than a loss. It should, however, act as an incentive to increase and improve the efforts already being made by the instruction of parents, and in the improvement of sanitation and hygiene, to still further reduce excessive mortality, especially amongst infants.

172 deaths occurred in the district, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 9.24 per thousand of the population. This is the lowest death-rate recorded in the district except that of 1905. Last year it was 10.11, and the average for the past ten years is 10.73.

In addition to these we have to include 35 deaths of residents occurring outside the district in the following institutions:—Withington Union Hospital, 15; Manchester Royal Infirmary, 8; Baguley Sanitorium, 4; Lancaster County Asylum, 2; other Manchester hospitals, 4; at Blackpool, 1; at Heaton Norris, 1. This is by far the largest number returned from outside the district, and

constitutes 17 per cent of the total deaths belonging to the district, which in all amounted to 207, and the actual or corrected death-rate is 11·12 per thousand. Of these deaths 107 were males, 100 females. The corrected death-rate is higher than those of the past three years, but is below the average, 11·54, of the past ten years. The rates for the four quarters of the year were 12·90, 10·10, 9·89, and 11·61. Six deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age were recorded.

In the following table are given the chief vital statistics for England and Wales, some adjacent districts, and ours:—

TABLE I.  
Comparative Vital Statistics.

AREA.	Population estimated to middle of 1908.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality.
England and Wales .....	...	26·5	14·7	1·29	121
Rural England and Wales ...	...	26·2	13·8	0·99	110
76 Great Towns .....	...	27·0	15·8	1·59	128
142 Smaller Towns.....	...	26·0	14·7	1·26	124
Manchester .....	649,251	29·1	18·2	2·25	151
Stockport.....	102,339	27·94	19·99	3·10	170
Stretford.....	43,000	20·7	11·4	1·0	103
Withington .....	44,287	19·2	10·8	0·99	106
Gorton .....	40,000	32·5	16·4	2·6	163
Heaton Norris .....	11,731	13·0	10·6	0·6	104
Levenshulme .....	<b>18,600</b>	<b>25·59</b>	<b>11·12</b>	<b>1·56</b>	<b>90</b>

Our district compares favourably on the whole, for with an average birth-rate both the infantile mortality and general death-rate are well below, and only the zymotic mortality is above the average.

The next table gives the vital statistics for the past thirty-one years, so far as they are available. It shows the rate of growth of the population—at first slow, then more rapid,—the reductions in the birth-rate, and in the death-rate which is even more marked, and the variations in the infantile mortality, which has, during the last seven years, been at the low average rate of 95.

TABLE II.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District from 1877 to 1908.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS Registered in the District.				D'ths of non-residents	Deaths of residents belonging to the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.			
		Number.	Rate.	Under one year of age.		At all ages.				No.	Rate.		
				No.	Rate per 1000 B'ths	No.	Rate.						
1877	3,200	124	38.50	12	97	56	17.39	...	...	...	...		
1878	3,300	119	36.06	14	117	66	20.00	...	...	...	...		
1879	3,380	122	36.09	12	98	61	18.04	...	...	...	...		
1880	3,470	105	30.26	7	67	52	15.04	...	...	...	...		
1881	3,550	134	37.74	14	104	48	13.52	...	...	...	...		
1882	3,650	129	35.34	22	171	61	16.71	...	...	...	...		
1883	3,850	123	31.94	9	73	54	14.02	...	...	...	...		
1884	4,100	156	38.05	17	108	64	15.60	...	...	...	...		
1885	4,460	152	34.08	19	125	86	19.28	...	...	...	...		
1886	4,600	149	32.39	22	147	76	16.52	...	...	...	...		
1887	4,750	150	31.57	17	112	77	16.21	...	...	...	...		
1888	5,000	156	31.20	15	96	67	13.40	...	...	...	...		
1889	5,200	158	30.38	21	132	88	16.92	...	...	...	...		
1890	5,400	154	28.52	24	155	88	16.30	...	...	...	...		
1891	5,550	156	28.10	17	109	84	15.11	...	...	...	...		
1892	5,800	155	26.72	15	96	89	15.34	...	...	...	...		
1893	6,500	173	26.61	30	176	105	16.15	...	...	...	...		
1894	7,000	196	28.00	17	86	80	11.43	...	...	...	...		
1895	7,800	175	22.43	23	131	104	13.33	...	...	...	...		
1896	8,500	244	28.70	20	82	96	11.29	...	...	...	...		
1897	9,200	223	24.24	42	188	123	13.37	...	...	...	...		
1898	9,700	236	24.33	20	84	108	11.12	...	5	113	11.65		
1899	10,300	270	26.21	50	185	136	13.20	...	8	144	13.98		
1900	10,900	307	28.16	45	146	114	10.45	...	5	119	10.91		
1901	11,700	374	31.96	48	128	147	12.56	...	5	152	13.00		
1902	12,500	382	30.56	35	91	128	10.24	...	12	140	11.20		
1903	13,500	405	30.00	40	98	143	10.59	...	14	157	11.63		
1904	15,500	448	28.90	47	105	170	10.96	...	12	182	11.74		
1905	16,500	415	25.15	41	98	146	8.84	...	12	158	9.57		
1906	17,200	469	27.26	42	89	160	9.30	...	24	184	10.69		
1907	18,000	497	27.61	48	96	182	10.11	...	17	199	11.05		
Avg. for 1898 1907	13,580	380	28.01	41	112	143	10.73	...	11	154	11.54		
1907	18,600	476	25.59	38	90	172	9.24	...	35	207	11.12		

Taking the three decades from 1878 we have the following rates: birth-rates, 34.35, 27.69, 28.01; infantile mortality, 112, 124, 112; death-rates, 16.49, 14.26, 11.54, the last of which is the corrected rate.

It is probable that the birth-rate, in conformity with the experience of other settled districts, will fall slightly in the future: it is probable also that the death-rate may rise somewhat, but it is to be hoped and expected that the improvements in the dwellings and their surroundings obtained by our bye-laws, and the general advancement in the sanitary conditions of the district, will help to maintain it in a relatively favourable position: and we have good reason to believe that we shall be able to reduce our infantile mortality even lower than the rates we have attained in the last few years. It is now becoming recognised that instruction in hygiene is at least of equal value with the ordinary subjects taught, and that lessons in house management, cooking, and the feeding and care of infants must form part of the course of instruction in elementary and technical schools if our population is to increase and progress in health and vigour. The provision of inspection of children in elementary schools, which, owing to our peculiar position, has so far remained in abeyance, will also help to reduce the morbidity if not the mortality at a critical position of life, and incidentally should greatly improve our prospects of controlling and checking outbreaks of infectious disease.

The vital statistics for the different Wards for the past year are shown in the next table.

TABLE III.

	North-West.	South-West.	North-East.	South-East.
Population, Estimated ... ...	2,380	3,710	8,850	3,660
Number of Deaths ... ...	20	25	107	
Death-rate ... ... ...	8.40	6.73	11.97	15.02
Number of Births ... ... ...	43	68	281	81
Birth-rate... ... ... ...	18.06	18.32	32.88	22.13
Deaths under 1 year ... ...	2	3	22	11
Infantile Mortality ... ...	46	41	77	135
Zymotic Deaths ... ... .	1	2	19	1
Zymotic Death-rate ... ...	1.68	0.53	2.11	1.09

In North-West and South-West Wards all the rates are low; in North East Ward the zymotic rate is high, and also the birth-rate; in South-East both the death-rate and infantile mortality are high.

The chief figures for the past seven years are shown in the next table for the purpose of comparison.

TABLE IV.

## Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Year.	NORTH-WEST WARD.			SOUTH-WEST WARD.			NORTH-EAST WARD.			SOUTH-EAST WARD.		
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.
1902	2150	—	17	2	2450	—	35	5	4700	—	50	16
1903	2200	46	37	6	2680	64	26	4	5300	186	50	18
1904	2300	50	32	4	3100	63	27	3	6550	223	74	28
1905	2150	40	23	6	3450	69	31	7	7450	209	75	20
1906	2200	34	24	2	3550	72	27	5	7900	262	94	23
1907	2380	44	20	2	3570	69	36	6	8600	273	92	28
1908	2380	43	20	2	3710	68	25	3	8850	284	107	22

In North-West Ward the figures for the various years have varied but slightly, in South-West the population has increased to some extent, in North-East there has been a steady increase in all the figures, and in South-East the growth has been slow.

In the next table the whole of the deaths belonging to the district are arranged in groups according to the ages at which they occurred, together with the figures for the seven previous years.

TABLE V.

## Table of the Ages at which the Deaths occurred, from 1900 to 1908.

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Under 1 year...	45	49	35	40	47	41	42	48	43
Between 1 and 5 years	8	15	17	11	35	22	27	22	27
,, 5,, 15,,	2	5	7	5	5	6	4	8	12
,, 15,, 25,,	5	4	4	8	9	9	6	3	8
,, 25,, 65,,	39	45	49	50	64	52	59	82	82
Over 65 years	19	34	28	41	22	28	46	36	35
Totals	114	152	140	157	182	158	184	190	207

Of those over 65 years, 10 were between 65 and 70 years, 19 between 70 and 80, 6 over 80 years. They constituted 17 per cent of the total deaths.

The number of deaths under 1 year was 43, and on comparing this with the 476 births we obtain a rate of mortality during the first year of life of 90 per thousand. This is lower than that of last year, 96, and much below the average for the past ten years of 112, and also those of the country generally, as shown in Tables I. and II. The average for the previous five years is 97, and these figures compare favourably with that for the whole period of thirty-one years given, 123, and encourage us to believe that the measures already adopted are proving of value, and that with further efforts the improvement will be permanent and even greater. There will always be a number of those born too weak to survive, but certainly, a good proportion of the other deaths may be prevented by more judicious care and feeding, and what is equally important, is that the constitution and stamina of those that live will be materially improved.

TABLE VI.

## Cause of Death under One Year of Age, from 1900 to 1908.

CLASS.	NAME.	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Pulmonary Diseases...	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.....	4	4	4	9	6	7	4	7	4
Infectious Diseases...	Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Scarlet Fever.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles .....	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...
	Whooping Cough.....	...	1	2	3	4	3	...	2	4
	Diarrhoea .....	3	9	2	1	3	3	2	1	3
	Tuberculosis .....	7	4	3	1	2	3	...	5	2
Diet Diseases...	Gastro-enteric Catarrh	8	3	3	6	8	4	3	3	3
	Convulsions .....	4	6	6	5	4	6	6	2	1
	Marasmus & Debility	3	7	6	5	3	4	6	8	9
Congenital Diseases...	Premature Birth .....	11	9	6	1	12	6	8	10	12
	Congenital Defects ...	...	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4
	Other causes .....	4	3	4	4	1	4	7	5	4
	Totals.....	45	49	35	40	47	41	42	48	43

Of the total number of deaths they formed 20 per cent, rather less than last year, 24, and were equal to a death-rate of 2.3 per thousand of the whole population.

The causes of these 43 deaths are classified and analysed in the Table VI., and compared with the figures for the previous eight years.

The number due to congenital diseases is, as usual, the largest, 16; dietetic diseases caused 13; infectious diseases, including diarrhoea and tuberculosis, 9; pulmonary diseases, 4.

Table VII. shows, in detail, the causes and the different periods at which these deaths occurred.

This table also shows that during the first week 9 deaths occurred; during the first month, 15; during the first three months, 28; and in six months, 34; or taking periods of three months we have the following figures, 28, 6, 6, 3, which indicate the greater dangers of the first few weeks of life, and the necessity of increased care and proper nutrition during this critical period.

The deaths during the first week, 9, were all due to premature birth and congenital defects, which caused altogether 16, a rate of 3.3 of the total births; atrophy and debility caused 8; gastro-enteric catarrh, 3; diarrhoea, 3; convulsions, 1; probably these may all be considered to be due to defects or errors in dieting. It has not been possible to ascertain hitherto what proportion are breast fed or bottle fed, but inquiries are now being made, and the great advantage as well as the economy of natural feeding is being inculcated and impressed. Tubercular diseases caused 2 deaths only; whooping cough, 4; bronchitis and pneumonia, 4; there were no deaths from overlaying.

The Notification of Births Act has been adopted, but it has not been possible to put it into practical operation, but towards the end of the year I made arrangements for our assistant lady inspectors to visit in certain areas the births returned to me after registration, with the object of making certain inquiries as to the condition of the child, feeding, sanitary conditions, and surroundings generally, and also to advise on the feeding and clothing in the manner shown on the cards which are given to the parents when the birth is registered. This will

TABLE VII. Infantile Mortality during the year 1908. Deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

Births in the year: legitimate, 468; illegitimate, 8. Deaths in the year: legitimate infants, 37; illegitimate infants, 6. Deaths from all causes at all ages, 207. Population, 18,600.

undoubtedly be of service, and would, I feel sure, be of even greater value if it could be given at an earlier period. The number of deaths of illegitimate children in proportion to the births is unusually high and decidedly excessive.

The deaths between one and five years number 27, which is higher than last year, and equal to the year previous ; the total deaths under five years is 70, the same as last year ; this is equal to a rate of 3.7 per thousand of the population.

In the next table is shown the chief causes of death in these children, with the figures for the previous eight years.

TABLE VIII.  
Causes of Death in Children under Five Years of Age,  
from 1900 to 1908.

NAME.	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Bronchitis and Pneumonia...	4	6	7	11	12	14	8	12	6
Scarlet Fever .....	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
Measles .....	1	3	2	1	5	...	9	3	4
Whooping Cough.....	2	1	6	4	9	6	...	2	8
Diphtheria and Croup.....	1	...	...	...	2	2	1	4	...
Diarrhoea .....	3	9	2	1	7	3	3	4	6
Tuberculosis .....	9	7	5	5	3	3	2	8	7
Gastro-enteric Catarrh .....	8	3	5	6	9	5	4	1	1
All other causes .....	24	35	24	22	35	30	42	36	35
Totals.....	53	64	52	51	82	63	69	70	70
Death-rate per thousand ...	4.2	5.3	4.1	3.7	5.1	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7

Of the 27 deaths between one and five years, 2 were due to pneumonia, 4 to measles, 3 to scarlet fever, 4 to whooping cough, 5 were due to tuberculous diseases, which, with the 2 under one year, make a total of 7 under five years of age, which is a third of the deaths from all tuberculous affections. This proportion is decidedly high, and indicates the need for further and continued efforts to prevent infe-

tion from the disease in adults, and also for improvement in the milk supply, which is almost certainly the source of infection in some cases, as it has now been definitely shown that the bacilli of bovine tubercle can cause it in human beings. To avoid this danger it is advisable that all milk used for children should be partially boiled and sterilised. One death was due to accident; there were no deaths from diarrhoea nor from diphtheria.

In the next table the deaths of persons at all ages are given in a concise form for comparison with previous years.

TABLE IX.  
Total Deaths throughout the District of Persons at all ages,  
from 1899 to 1908.

DISEASES.	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	12	...	3	2	2	5	...	12	1	4
Scarlet Fever .....	1	2	2	3	1	1	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria.....	...	1	...	2	...	2	3	2	6	6
Whooping Cough.....	...	2	1	6	4	9	6	...	2	8
Enteric Fever and Con- tinued Fever .....	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	2	...	1
Erysipelas .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea .....	10	4	9	2	2	7	3	7	4	6
Puerperal Fever .....	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...
Phthisis & Tuberculosis	15	20	15	17	11	27	20	11	22	20
Bronchitis, Pneumonia &c	31	14	21	16	33	30	38	26	45	38
Heart Disease .....	9	6	10	10	13	11	13	13	15	18
Cancer .....	4	7	7	8	8	12	4	8	11	10
Alcoholism & Cirrhosis of Liver .....	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	...	5	2
Injuries .....	2	3	3	3	6	3	4	1	8	6
Diseases not classified...	58	64	83	78	79	73	65	91	75	81
Totals.....	111	118	152	140	157	182	158	184	199	207

All the deaths were certified by medical men; in 11 cases inquests were held by coroners, of these 6 were due to accidents, 5 to natural causes.

In the next table the deaths are classified in greater detail, and the age and ward in which they occurred are shown.

TABLE X.—Causes of and Ages at Death during 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to Whole District, at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to localities (Wards) at all Ages.			
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	NW	SW	NE	SE
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Searlet Fever .....	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1
Whooping Congh .....	8	4	4	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	2
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	6	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	5	...
Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric .....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
{ Other Continued .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza .....	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhea .....	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Enteritis .....	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis(Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .....	13	...	...	...	1	12	...	1	1	9	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	7	2	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	10	...	...	...	...	8	2	...	...	8	2
Bronchitis .....	21	2	...	1	2	8	8	1	7	5	8
Pneumonia .....	16	2	2	1	...	9	2	1	3	10	2
Pleurisy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	..	...
Alcoholism .....	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venercal Diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth .....	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	3
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Diseases .....	18	...	...	1	2	9	6	5	1	5	7
Accidents .....	5	...	1	...	2	1	1	1	2	...	2
Suicides .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
All other causes .....	67	15	7	1	1	27	16	6	7	33	21
All causes .....	207	43	27	12	8	82	35	20	25	107	55

The deaths at the earlier ages have already been considered under previous tables, and the figures for the higher ages are too small to deduce any definite principles or to make accurate comparisons.

The total number of deaths from respiratory diseases is 38, bronchitis 21, pneumonia 16, and the pulmonary death rate is 2.01, which is about the average for the past five years.

From phthisis there were 13 deaths; from other tubercular diseases 7, making a total of 20.

The phthisis death rate is .69, which is below that of last year, and also of the average of the past ten years of .81.

The deaths from heart disease, 18, and those from cancer, 10, are slightly higher than the average.

In ages above five years there were 6 deaths from diphtheria, 1 from scarlet fever, and 1 from enteric fever.

67 deaths were due to diseases of various organs which are not here classified.

The total deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever, and diarrhoea, including enteritis in infants, were 29, and the zymotic death-rate, 1.56 per thousand, which is decidedly above the average, 1.17, for the past ten years. They constituted 14 per cent of the total deaths.

In the next table are shown the number of deaths, and the rates for the previous ten years, from zymotic diseases, pulmonary diseases, and phthisis.

TABLE XI.

**Comparison of the Mortality from Zymotic Diseases from 1897 to 1908.**

Total Deaths from	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Zymotic Diseases ...	19	8	24	11	17	16	10	21	12	20	17	29
Zymotic Death-rate	2.0	.8	2.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	.74	1.5	.72	1.16	.91	1.56
Pulmonary Diseases	23	18	32	11	21	16	33	30	38	26	45	38
Pulmonary Death-rate	2.2	1.8	2.9	1.25	2.05	1.2	2.44	1.93	2.30	1.51	2.11	2.01
Phthisis .....	11	11	4	10	6	12	6	18	14	8	14	13
Phthisis Death-rate	1.2	1.4	.36	.87	.91	.96	.11	1.11	.85	.46	.77	.69

During the year there has been an unusual occurrence of infectious disease for our district; scarlet fever and diphtheria have occurred to a large extent, measles also were prevalent, and there were a considerable number of cases of whooping cough.

131 cases of the chief infectious diseases were notified, all by medical men, and in the next table these are compared with the figures of previous years.

TABLE XII.

## Cases of Infectious Diseases notified from 1897 to 1908.

	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Smallpox ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ...	23	18	27	67	101	19	26	34	51	63	43	81
Diphtheria and Croup	4	5	2	7	10	11	4	10	18	17	32	39
Enteric and Continued Fever ... ... ...	4	4	6	1	5	1	8	3	...	7	3	4
Puerperal Fever ...	3	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	3	2	2
Erysipelas ... ...	3	5	13	6	10	4	7	3	6	2	4	5
Totals ... ...	37	32	49	81	126	36	51	55	76	92	84	131

This is the largest number recorded up to the present, though in 1901 it was nearly equalled. Scarlet fever, as usual, accounted for the largest number, 81; diphtheria for 39; enteric fever, 4; puerperal fever, 2; and erysipelas, 5.

These 131 cases occurred in 104 houses; there were 11 deaths from them, a percentage of 8·3.

In the next table are shown the age of occurrence, the distribution of cases, and the numbers removed from each ward.

A large majority of the cases occurred in children between the ages of 1 and 15 years, 104; of these 27 were under 5 years, 55 between 5 and 10, 22 were between 10 and 15, over 15 years there were 27.

In proportion to the population of the wards, north-west had the smallest number, the others had about equal numbers; the proportion of removals to cases was greatest in south-west.

TABLE XIII.  
Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District						Total Cases notified in each Ward.				Number of Cases removed to Hospital in each Ward.				Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	Over 65 years	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.	
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria	39	...	9	25	2	3	...	...	6	24	9	...	1	6	2	9
Erysipelas	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever	81	...	18	50	6	7	...	7	23	38	13	2	15	11	5	33
Enteric Fever	4	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	
TOTALS	131	...	27	77	10	17	...	9	29	67	26	2	16	17	8	43

The number removed, 43, is the largest recorded, and the percentage of removals, 34, is higher than the last two years, though in itself it is not a high percentage.

In all cases where isolation was not practicable at home, and in some for business reasons, removal to hospital was carried out. Owing to the character of our population, and the comparatively small number of children in many houses, it was possible to retain and satisfactorily isolate the remainder of the cases, 88, at home. In respect of scarlet fever and diphtheria, with a total of 120 cases, in 65 cases there were either none or only one susceptible individual in each house; with the other 55 cases there were two or more, and of these 27 were removed, equal to 50 per cent. In cases of diphtheria there were also less requests for removal by the medical men attending.

In very few cases, where removal has been reported urgent, have I decided against removal, and in all such cases I have made personal inquiries, and informed the medical attendant of the reasons. It is satisfactory to report that the system has worked well and without friction, and that the results have been favourable, and secondary cases have been almost entirely absent. Arrangements have been made for removal on Sundays and holidays of urgent cases.

In the next table are given the figures for the last ten years. This includes the four diseases for which hospital isolation is provided, viz., smallpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever.

TABLE XIV.

Year.	Cases Notified.	Number Removed to Hospital.	Percentage Removed.
1899	35	13	37
1900	75	16	21
1901	116	28	24
1902	31	8	26
1903	42	18	43
1904	52	33	63
1905	69	31	45
1906	87	26	30
1907	78	18	23
1908	124	43	34

It is desirable that, to the diseases already provided for, puerperal fever should be added, as in certain cases hospital treatment at an early stage would be of very great advantage.

41 cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria were removed to Baguley Sanatorium, 1 case of scarlet fever and one of enteric fever to Monsall Hospital. The cases were taken, under the care of the Assistant Inspector or one of the staff, in the brougham ambulance, and were brought back again from the hospital. The condition of the patients has been reported daily, and the reports posted up in the offices; in a few serious cases visits have been allowed to the hospital. 4 deaths occurred in hospital: from scarlet fever, 2; diphtheria, 2. There were 2 return cases, the secondary cases occurring after periods of 11 and 23 days, but in one of these there was reason for doubt as to the true source of infection. One case had, apparently, a second attack a few days after return from hospital. Every care has been taken by Dr. Basil Rhodes to prevent return cases, and this has in a few cases necessitated a somewhat prolonged stay.

At two periods of the year our hospital accommodation was taxed to its full extent. On the first occasion, a special temporary arrange-

ment was made with Manchester, whereby we were enabled to send some more cases, and on the second occasion, an agreement was come to with Hyde Corporation to admit some of our cases on certain terms, so that we have been enabled to remove every really urgent case.

In each case the usual inquiries with respect to means of isolation, possible source of infection, schools attended, milk supply, and other details, have been immediately made after notification, forms of instruction have been left at the houses, disinfectants provided, the usual notices sent, and disinfection of the rooms and clothing carried out. 131 rooms were fumigated with formaldehyde, or washed with chloride of lime solution, and 1692 articles of bedding or clothing were disinfected by superheated steam in the disinfecter, which works satisfactorily.

The reports were presented to me for consideration, and any connection between the cases or the schools noted, and where requisite I made a personal visit. In a few difficult and doubtful cases I made visits at the request of the medical attendants.

Reports were received from the schools chiefly with reference to the occurrence of cases of measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, mumps, and ringworm. In these cases forms of precautions were sent to the houses affected, and I also made a number of visits to the schools with reference to these cases and other outbreaks.

It is desirable that teachers should receive some instruction in the early symptoms of the common infectious diseases by lectures or otherwise, as early recognition of the first cases and prompt exclusion from school for a stated period would materially help to prevent or check the extension of the disease, and obviate the necessity of closing a school, and certainly avoid a great loss of school attendance.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but in one case an extension of the holidays at Whitsuntide for a week was decided upon by the Health Committee, owing to an epidemic of measles affecting the infants' department of the Council School, Chapel Street, and the Council School, Errwood Road, and a closing order was made for the period 15th to the 20th June.

The prevalence of the various infectious diseases throughout the year is shown in the next table.

TABLE XV.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified and communicated each month.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	5	1	12	4	1	15	11	3	8	7	19	5	81
Diphtheria .....	12	7	4	1	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	39
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Fever ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas .....	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	5
Measles.....	1	...	22	34	96	71	5	...	...	...	...	...	229
Whooping Cough .....	12	...	6	4	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Diarrhoea .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	few	few	...	...	...	few
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis .....	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	2	2	1	1	...	11

This shows that scarlet fever was prevalent to a moderate extent throughout the year, more especially in the latter half, that diphtheria occurred principally in the earlier months, that an epidemic of measles broke out and lasted for several months, and that there were a moderate number of cases of whooping cough, and that cases of diarrhoea were very few.

It is desirable to consider certain points with reference to these somewhat in detail.

**Smallpox.**—The district has been exempt from this disease for the past four years.

**Scarlet fever.**—The number of cases, 81, is the highest for the past seven years. While at no time did it assume the dimensions of an epidemic, yet at two periods, June and November, two considerable outbreaks occurred, one in connection with Errwood Road Council Schools, the other with Chapel Street Council Schools. On June 23rd 5 cases were notified, and within the next ten days 8 cases more, all in attendance at Errwood Road Schools, and later, 4 more cases arose indirectly, making a total of 17 cases. The Principal, Mr. Moorfield, promptly communicated with me, the schools were visited, special

inquiries were made, and I was able to ascertain the probable source of the outbreak. The classroom chiefly affected was vacated and thoroughly disinfected, the reading and other books in that room destroyed, and special observations were made of all the children for a time. Owing to the action taken the outbreak was speedily checked, though it affected the school attendance for some time afterwards. It was found necessary to remove altogether 9 of the cases to hospital. The occurrence caused much anxiety, and involved a considerable amount of work, in which I was materially assisted by the voluntary Assistant Inspector, Mr. Lyons, in the absence on holiday of our Inspector.

In November a large number of cases occurred in connection with Chapel Street Council Schools, 12 in five weeks were reported, and indirectly 4 more cases occurred, making a total of 18. I made special visits and inquiries at the school, but it was not possible to ascertain the source: the children were observed by the teachers, and handbills of prevention were distributed to all the scholars in the infant department, which was chiefly affected, and the outbreak rapidly subsided. The districts chiefly affected were South-West and North-East Wards, and the numbers at the schools: Errwood Road, 28; Chapel Street, 19; St. Peter's, 5; St. Mark's, 1; other schools, 3; no school, 25.

The type of the disease was mild, though 4 deaths were due to it, equal to a rate of 4·9 of the cases notified.

During the last ten years only 15 deaths have occurred in 512 cases notified, a rate of 2·9 per cent. Two of the deaths occurred at home after 9 and 3 days, two at hospital after 10 and 21 days.

Of the 81 cases, 44 were males, 37 females, and the ages were as follows:—

Ages	...	under 1	over 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	years
Cases	...	...	—	2	4	4	8	8	6	9	1	7
Ages	...	over 10	11	12	13	14	15-25	25-65				years
Cases	...	...	3	2	4	7	3	6			7	

Grouping these figures, we have, between 1 and 5 years, 18 cases; between 5 and 10 years, 31 cases; between 10 and 15 years, 19 cases; over 15 years, 13 cases.

These 81 cases were notified in 59 houses ; 41 had single cases ; 15 had two cases ; 1 had three ; 2 had four. 32 cases were removed to Biguley Sanatorium, and 1 to Monsall Hospital. Single cases from 18 houses ; two cases from 4 ; three from 1 ; and four from 1.

In the remainder of the houses there were satisfactory means of isolation, and in a few instances cases were retained at home though removal was offered.

The table below shows the percentage of removals of cases of scarlet fever during the past ten years.

TABLE XVI.  
Cases of Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Number Notified.	Number Removed to Hospital.	Percentage Removed.
1898	18	3	17
1899	27	13	48
1900	67	16	24
1901	101	28	28
1902	19	8	42
1903	26	13	50
1904	34	19	56
1905	51	19	37
1906	63	19	30
1907	43	7	16
1908	81	33	40

The average duration of stay in hospital was 51 days, the average period of isolation at home 38 days.

There were 2 return cases, one of which was doubtful, and one case returned to hospital 5 days after with apparently a second attack ; on inquiry I learnt that in the opinion of the hospital staff the first attack was doubtful.

**Diphtheria.**—Towards the end of 1907 this disease had been prevalent in part of the district, 20 cases being notified in the last three months of the year, and in January 12 fresh cases were notified, the largest number in one month for many years ; this was followed

by 7 in February and 4 in March, since which period the numbers have been small. The outbreak chiefly affected the children attending Chapel Street Council Schools and St. Mark's School, and residing in North East and South-East Wards. It was decided to issue circulars on the prevention of diphtheria to the children attending these schools, and as a result of the care subsequently taken by the parents in all cases of sore throat the disease speedily abated. A similar result followed the distribution of circulars on scarlet fever at a later date, and indicates the value of thus instructing parents in the early symptoms of diseases and requesting their earnest co-operation to prevent them.

Altogether 39 cases in 34 houses were notified during the year, 30 houses had single cases, 3 had 2 cases, 1 had 3. Of these cases 17 were males, 22 females, and the ages were as follows:—

Ages	...	under 1	over 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	years
Cases	...	...	—	—	3	3	3	8	2	6	4	3
Ages	...	over	10	11	12	13	14	15-25	25-65	years		
Cases	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	2	3			

Grouping these figures we have, between 1 and 5 years 9 cases, between 5 and 10 years 23 cases, 10 to 15 years 2 cases, over 15 years 5 cases, showing the greater susceptibility up to 10 years, and the small number of cases over 15 years. In 15 cases no school was attended, 10 attended Chapel Street Council Schools, 9 St. Mark's, 1 St. Peter's, 2 Errwood Road, 2 St. Andrew's.

The cases as a rule were mild, and infection was, I believe, due to an unrecognised case attending at each of the two schools chiefly affected, as though all possible inquiries were made the sources could not be detected.

In 27 cases swabs were taken, in 12 cases this was not done; 11 were reported positive, 14 negative, and with reference to the latter I was informed in several cases that the clinical symptoms were undoubted, and in 2 cases a second swab was positive. At the termination of the cases 13 swabs were taken from 11 cases, and the final results declared negative.

In 12 other cases of suspicious sore-throat swabs were taken ; the results were negative, and the cases were not notified.

The reports of the bacteriological examinations this year have not been so reliable as usual, and where the clinical symptoms are marked may not be quite so necessary, but it is desirable that in all cases a swab be taken to confirm the diagnosis, and at the termination of the case in apparent recovery to ensure as far as possible the absence of diphtheria bacilli from the throat and thus reduce the risks of infection by carriers.

The supply of antitoxin and syringe was much appreciated, and in many cases was made use of before notification. Of those notified, 25 had antitoxin, 14 had none ; of the 25, 21 recovered, 4 died ; and in 2 fatal cases no antitoxin had been used. In 7 cases not notified antitoxin was used as a precaution.

9 cases were removed from 9 houses, a percentage of 23 per cent of those notified. Since the use of antitoxin I find there has been less demand for removal, as the results are more favourable.

The number of cases, removals, and percentages since 1903, when hospital accommodation was provided for diphtheria, is shown below.

TABLE XVII.  
Cases of Diphtheria.

Year.	Number Notified.	Number Removed to Hospital.	Percentage Removed.
1903	4	1	25
1904	10	7	70
1905	18	12	66
1906	17	3	17
1907	32	10	31
1908	39	9	23

Excluding the fatal cases, the average stay in hospital was 49 days ; at home the period of isolation was 25 days. The average at the hospital was unduly raised by three cases with complications requiring prolonged treatment, and it is probable that it is the more severe cases

which are usually sent, and the milder cases retained at home, as in only two cases was the treatment prolonged.

There were no return cases.

6 deaths occurred in 39 cases, a death-rate of 15.3 per cent.: 2 in hospital, after 7 and 6 days; 4 at home, after 7, 8, 46, and 36 days respectively, in the latter two from certain complications following.

In only 2 cases were serious sanitary defects found in the houses affected.

**Enteric Fever.**—4 cases were notified at various intervals, and in various localities: 3 were males, 1 female, and their ages were 14, 22, 4, and 28 years; 3 recovered, 1 died; 3 were isolated at home, 1 was removed to Monsall Hospital. In 3 cases examination of the blood was made, all with positive results. In 4 other cases examination was made, but the reports were negative, and the cases not notified.

In one case the patient had recently partaken of mussels, but the exact source could not be traced, and in one case the sanitary condition of the midden privy was very unsatisfactory; it was afterwards abolished.

During the last eleven years only 42 cases have been notified, with 8 deaths. Our comparative freedom is, I believe, due to the small sale of shell fish—such as mussels—in the district, and to the continued removal and abolition of the privy-middens, only a few of which now remain.

**Erysipelas.**—Five cases were notified; there were no deaths from it; no sanitary defects were found in the houses.

**Puerperal fever.**—Two cases were notified; there were no deaths from it. In one case a midwife was in attendance, and the case was reported to the County Council, who made certain inquiries through their Inspector. In each case disinfection was carried out.

**Diarrhoea.**—Only a few cases occurred during the past year, and of the 6 deaths ascribed to it 3 were of gastro-enteritis in infants under one year, and only 3 deaths were due to epidemic diarrhoea, all of children under one year. As usual, handbills respecting its

prevention were distributed in the summer months, and diarrhoea mixture was supplied at the Offices and the County Police Station for urgent cases. It seems probable, from recent investigations, that the house fly may, by contaminating food, be to some extent the cause of diarrhoea, and it is therefore desirable that all food, especially milk, should be kept covered, and that all refuse and organic matter, which serve as breeding places for flies, should be frequently and systematically removed or destroyed.

The abolition of the privy midden system will be a long step in the reduction of epidemic diarrhoea.

**Measles.**—The district was subject to an epidemic during three months of the year beginning towards the end of March. In this month reports were received of 22 cases, in April of 34 cases, in May of 96, and in June of 71.

The cases chiefly affected the infant departments of Chapel Street Council Schools and Errwood Road Council Schools, the other schools being only slightly affected. A special report was made to the Health Committee, and it was resolved that the Whitsuntide holidays, which were then due, should be extended by a week, and a Closing Order was made for the closing of the infants departments of these two schools from the 15th to the 20th June. On the re-opening of the schools it was found that the epidemic had materially abated, and during the remainder of the year only a few cases were reported; altogether 229 cases were reported from the schools. 4 deaths were due to it, all of children between 1 and 5 years of age. In all cases circulars describing the symptoms and means of prevention were sent to the parents.

**Whooping-Cough.**—This disease was prevalent to a slight extent at the early part of the year, and 35 cases were reported from the schools. There were undoubtedly a much larger number of cases in children too young for attendance at school, as 8 deaths were due to it: 4 of children under 1 year, 4 between 1 and 5 years of age.

**Chicken-Pox.**—Only 14 cases were reported during the year.

I also received reports of 39 cases of mumps, 35 in December, and reports of 10 cases of ringworm and other skin affections. These

affect school attendance to a considerable extent, and will call for attention under the medical inspection of children in schools when the system is instituted.

**Epidemic Influenza.**—This did not occur to any large extent, and only 2 deaths were ascribed to it.

**Phthisis.**—During the year 13 deaths occurred from it, 8 in the district, 3 in institutions outside ; this is equal to a death-rate of 0·69 per thousand, which is lower than the rate for last year, 0·77, and the average for the past ten years, 0·81.

Of these 13 deaths, in 7 cases notification was made during the year, 1 in the year previous. Altogether 11 notifications were received, the highest number since voluntary notification was instituted.

In 7 cases examination of the sputum was made, 4 gave positive, 3 negative results. All the 4 positive were afterwards notified.

The houses of the cases notified were visited, excepting those in which the medical attendant did not desire it, cards of instruction were left, and advice as to disinfection of the rooms given. After deaths the rooms and bedding where necessary were disinfected, and this procedure has been welcomed by the occupiers in all cases.

It is to be hoped that in the future a certain amount of hospital accommodation will be provided, both for the enfeebled cases in the early stages, and also for the more advanced cases in which the risk of infection is so great, and which are not able to obtain proper and sufficient nursing and care at home.

At the commencement of the year a case was reported as one of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis. The symptoms were very suspicious and indicated this diagnosis. The patient, a woman, age 52, was a visitor from Edinburgh ; she died the day following, and on the advice of Dr. Niven, Medical Officer of Manchester, whom I consulted, I made post mortem a lumbar puncture for cerebro spinal fluid.

This was examined, but the result was negative, and on review of the whole case I did not consider it to be a true case. Every precaution, however, was taken, and thorough disinfection carried out.

6 midwives are reported to be registered as practising in the district, and are under the supervision of the county authorities. In one case of puerperal fever a midwife was in attendance.

At the end of the year there were a number of cases of scarlet fever, 4 isolated at home, 10 in hospital. There were no cases of diphtheria, and very few cases of any other infectious disease. The general health conditions of the district were very satisfactory.

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## SANITARY WORK OF THE YEAR.

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There has been a considerable amount of work carried through during the year, and the report presented by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. E. Lord, shows the energetic and systematic attention which is given to all the numerous details which come under the supervision of the Health Department.

All complaints have received prompt attention and investigation, nuisances found to exist have been traced to their source, and steps taken to have them remedied or removed, and a continuous inspection of the district has been carried on.

The number of nuisances, 730, is larger than last year. In most of the cases abatement was secured by calling the attention of those responsible to the conditions, and by verbal requests or cautions. In 170 cases preliminary notices and letters were required, and when these were not effective, the matter was laid before the Health Com-

mittee; in 57 cases legal notices were served, and in 3 cases summonses were applied for at the County Police Court before the nuisance was abated, but in no case was it actually necessary to obtain a magistrate's order.

In all serious cases the matter has been laid before me by the Inspector at my daily visit to the offices, and I have made 197 visits to 240 premises with reference to nuisances and cases of infectious disease, in addition to the regular work of supervision.

83 complaints were received relating to a large variety of matters of varying degrees of importance. A detailed account of the various nuisances is given, and the work done shown in the tables of the Inspector's report, and it is only necessary for me to refer to certain features of the work.

**Water Supply.**--This is provided by the Manchester Corporation. The supply has been continuous, abundant, and satisfactory, and no complaints of its quality have been received.

**Streams.**--With the exception of those on our boundaries, Nico Brook and Cringle or Black Brook, most of these have been culverted, and those that still remain uncovered are free from pollution from sewage, or manufacturers' refuse, to any serious extent.

**Privies, Ashpits, and Water-closets.**--Owing to the systematic action taken in all cases of nuisance the number of midden-privies in the district has been greatly reduced, with results greatly conducive to the welfare and satisfaction of the inhabitants. During the year it was found necessary to report a number to your Health Committee, with the result that altogether 46 were converted to water-closets and 83 were abolished, many of the latter being done away with on my request by letter. In addition, 10 ashpits were abolished and tins provided instead.

During the last six years we have been able to secure the removal or abolition of a total of 816 midden-privies.

At the present time there are in the district 4171 fresh-water closets, 52 waste-water closets, 8 pail-closets, and 96 midden-privies.

There were no waste-water closets converted to the ordinary form, and no new ones constructed.

In a few cases water-closets have been blocked up, mainly owing to want of care, and 31 were found defective and repaired.

**Sewerage.**—The system of sewers is comprehensive, and covers all the occupied parts of the district, and works efficiently. The sewers take all the sewage and slop water; the rain and surface water is carried by surface drains into the brooks, except in the case of some of the older houses, where it is found to enter the sewers. The condition of the sewers has been more satisfactory, and fewer complaints of smells have been received. Flushing was carried out systematically, and 414,600 gallons of water were used for this purpose during the year.

93 drains and sewer branches were found defective, and were relaid, and in 218 cases the smoke test was applied.

The sewage is treated at Withington Sewage Works.

**Disposal of Refuse.**—Removal of house refuse has been carried out regularly and systematically by the Council's workmen. There are still a large number of ashpits in the district, many of them close to the houses, often uncovered, deep, often damp, and extremely difficult to empty from the height of the door. It is highly desirable, from the points of view both of health and economy, that these should be abolished and ashbins substituted, and during the year a number have been referred to your Health Committee as requiring action under the Public Health Act, see. 36 and see. 91, and 10 have been abolished. The refuse, amounting to 4319 loads, has been destroyed at the destructor, or deposited during a short period on tips.

**Smoke Nuisance.**—There has been comparatively little nuisance from works or factory chimneys. 11 observations were made; in no case was the time limit of six minutes per hour exceeded.

The firing of domestic chimneys, whether caused purposely or accidentally, is responsible for a large amount of nuisance, and requires

more inspection to check it. 20 cases were reported, and the persons concerned were fined or warned.

**Factories and Workshops.**—There are 28 factories in the district, 8 fairly large. The provision of sanitary conveniences is satisfactory.

There are 53 workshops, chiefly dressmakers and boot repairers. These were all inspected, 81 visits being made. In 2 cases notices were required for want of cleanliness.

22 outworkers are reported in the district; they have been visited and the conditions found satisfactory.

There are 27 bakehouses in the district, 1 of which is underground. They have been regularly inspected; in 25 instances limewashing was required.

Altogether 198 visits of inspection were made, 5 to factories, 193 to workshops; 10 written notices were served. The numbers of misancies were: want of cleanliness, 27; want of ventilation, 2.

Lists of outworkers have been received from and have been forwarded to other Councils as required.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district.

**Slaughter-houses.**—There are 3 private slaughter-houses in the district. They have been regularly and systematically inspected, especially while the work has been going on, and the condition of the animals observed. The premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

**Sale of Food and Drugs.**—Inspection of the various shops retailing meat, fish, fruit, etc., was made occasionally, and their conditions noted. The premises generally were kept clean; in only a few instances were notices required, and these were readily complied with. No meat nor fruit was seized, but the carcasses of two pigs affected with tuberculosis, and other organs and viscera, amounting altogether to 475 lbs. were surrendered to the Inspector, and were destroyed in the destructor after my examination of them.

47 samples of food were taken by the County Police in our district, they were all genuine. The particulars are given in the following return:—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT ANALYSIS 1908.

**Return of Samples Purchased by the Police in the Township of Levenshulme during the year 1908.**

Number Taken.	Nature of Sample.	Result of Analysis.	
		Genuine.	Adulterated.
11	Butter ... ... ...	11	...
3	Margarine ... ...	3	...
5	Lard ... ... ...	5	...
20	Milk ... ... ...	20	...
3	Whisky ... ... ...	3	...
2	Cheese ... ... ...	2	...
2	Self-Raising Flour ..	2	..
1	White Pepper ... ...	1	...
47	Total ... ...	47	...

**Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops.**—The cowsheds, 7 in number, are in a satisfactory structural condition, and have been kept on the whole fairly clean. Our chief difficulty is to secure proper grooming and cleanliness of the cattle before milking, and up to the present the conditions cannot be considered completely satisfactory, and more supervision of these matters is required. The amount of air space required, 800 cubic feet per cow, has not always been maintained, though we have endeavoured to secure it constantly.

49 milk shops and dairies are on the register. The dairies are required to be outside the house, properly constructed and ventilated, and they are kept clean. In a number of shops the conditions are not quite as satisfactory as could be desired, but separate provision and storage is required. The regulation as to the covering of vessels

containing milk has been frequently broken and the retailers have had to be cautioned by the Inspectors.

**Schools.**—The schools are with one exception of modern construction and well arranged. Heating, lighting, and ventilation are satisfactory in all, and the sanitary arrangements are efficient, all of them being provided with water-closets flushed automatically.

All the schools were visited, and special inquiries made with reference to the occurrence of infectious diseases.

Owing to the proposal and pending arrangements for amalgamation with Manchester, no action has been taken in the district with respect to medical inspection of children in the public elementary schools.

**Housing Accommodation.**—This is ample and satisfactory, a large number of new houses having been built in the last few years under our improved bye-laws, which only require a regulation to secure a minimum area for a living room to render them complete. No houses were ordered to be closed or condemned during the year, and no action was taken under the Housing of the Working-Classes Act.

There are five back-to-back houses in the district.

The provision of brushes and lime has been of great service, and 62 applications were made for them. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

During the year we had the voluntary services of Mr. W. E. Lyon, who acted as Assistant Inspector for several months. During the time, he passed the examination of the Sanitary Institute, and in July secured an appointment at West Bromwich as Assistant Sanitary Inspector. In July, Miss Bible was accepted as a voluntary health visitor, and has given valuable assistance, especially in removing infectious cases. At the end of November, Miss Barclay was also accepted as a voluntary health visitor for a period of six months. It has thus been possible to get a very large amount of work done, and also to arrange for an increase in the scope and variety of the work, especially with regard to visiting in cases of infectious disease and phthisis, and also to houses after registration of births.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the work done by the staff, and the energy and perseverance displayed, to thank the officers for the assistance given at all times, and to acknowledge the invariable support and encouragement given by the Health Committee to all the efforts made or proposals suggested for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the district, and the health of its inhabitants.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. EDLIN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

COUNCIL OFFICES,

*March 6th, 1909.*



## LEVENSHULME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Report of the Inspector of Nuisances,

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Seventh Annual Report of the sanitary work accomplished during the year ended 31st December 1908, it is with the feeling that the results of the year's labour will be very gratifying to you. The abatement of nuisances, as will be seen from the following table, has gone on steadily all through the year. Some of the nuisances are caused by inattention to the most ordinary laws of hygiene, but it is in the cases where structural alterations are required that the difficulty is encountered in proving that our requirements are necessary. In a few cases the owners have at first stiffly refused to do the work, and have characterised my actions as interference. A number of cases have arisen during the year of poultry keeping in the small yards at the rear of dwelling-houses. Accumulations of ashes and sodden, sour-smelling soil were found in the enclosures. Some of these were discontinued on representations being made to the occupier, but in three cases it was necessary to go so far as to apply for summonses at the County Police Court. On this being done, the persons disposed of the poultry and removed the cotes and earth. 57 statutory notices have been served, chiefly in the abolition or conversion to water-closets of the midden-privies or uncovered ash-pits. 170 preliminary notices or letters relating to nuisances have

been sent, and 96 owners and 169 occupiers have been interviewed respecting nuisances requiring abatement. The total number of nuisances dealt with is 730, being slightly in advance of the number abated during 1907.

### Nuisances Abated during 1908.

Midden-privies Converted into Water-closets .....	46
,,      ,, Abolished .....	83
Ashpits Abolished .....	10
Drains Reconstructed or Repaired .....	93
Blocked-up Drains and Water-closets .....	37
Yard Surfaces Repaired .....	24
Slopstone Pipes Repaired .....	15
Spouts Repaired .....	19
Ashbins Repaired or Replaced .....	166
Defective Water-closets Repaired .....	31
General Repairs .....	10
Ashbins Provided in lieu of Pits .....	89
Dirty Houses Limewashed .....	5
Bakehouses Limewashed .....	25
Slaughter-houses Limewashed .....	12
Workshops Limewashed .....	2
Cowsheds Limewashed .....	7
Bakehouses Ventilated .....	2
Accumulations of Manure .....	35
Poultry Keeping .....	8
Water in Cellars .....	4
River Pollution from Cesspool .....	1
Other Nuisances .....	6
	<hr/>
	730

During the year 83 complaints have been received. These referred to various causes, some of which were not serious. In response to one it was found necessary to order the cleansing of the public urinal to be done daily in place of bi-weekly, and later, since September, the flushing has been done twice per day. Another complaint of pig keeping on a farm was anticipatory, being received before any styes were occupied. No complaints have arisen from the use of the slaughter-houses, and no offensive trades or knackers' yards exist in the District.

### Summary of Visits.

To Work in Progress Abating Nuisances .....	204
Bakehouses, Workshops, and Outworkers .....	198
Complaints .....	183
Milkshops and Farms .....	76
Show Vans .....	19
Cases of Infectious Disease .....	257
Other Premises Inspected or Reinspected .....	2166
Owners Interviewed respecting Nuisances .....	96
Occupiers " " " .....	169
Drains Tested .....	218
Occupiers Fined for Chimney Firing .....	20

The total number of inspections is much higher than for the preceding year. Full supervision has been maintained over all cases of drainage work carried out under my instructions. Many cases, however, occur of persons knowing extremely little about the requirements of a drain taking up the drain to clear out a blockage and replacing the pipes in a broken or uneven condition, and without any attempt at a sound joint. These are done without my knowledge, and the blockage or other trouble recurs, involving still greater expense, though the difficulty might easily have been overcome had I first been consulted.

The farms and milkshops have received attention, particularly during the summer months. There are now 7 farms in the district and 49 milkshops on the register. They have been kept in a cleanly condition, the regulations with respect to limewashing, cleanliness, and ventilation being fairly well carried out. The instructions with regard to the covering of milk vessels in the shops were often violated, but no action has been taken beyond warning the persons.

19 show vans have been visited and full enquiries made, but no cases of infectious disease were found.

There are now 27 bakehouses in the district, but only one underground. These are limewashed during the months of April and October, to comply with the Factory and Workshop Act. In some of the bakehouses the limewashing is done more frequently. The cellar bakehouse has been properly certified, and has been kept in an exceptionally clean condition. Two bakehouses were ordered to be

ventilated, and notices were served on the occupiers of two workshops to cleanse and limewash them. The home-workers were investigated during the year without discovering any occurrence of infection. 35 accumulations of manure were removed under notices from my department. Strict measures are necessary in these cases, as the stablemen and farmers are very neglectful, large heaps of decomposing manure awaiting the convenience of one or other of these parties. 24 hours' notice was given in a number of cases and the manure was immediately dealt with, except once, where a number of stables combined for the use of one pit. This manure was removed by my men, and the expenses recovered from the occupiers of the stables.

The slaughter-houses, fish and meat shops, and hawkers' carts were regularly inspected. Any instances of diseased or unsound meat were at once surrendered as soon as condemned. The total weight destroyed was 475 lbs., consisting of 2 pigs' carcases, 1 ham, the remainder being various diseased organs.

20 occupiers were fined for chimney firing, but a great many more were warned.

	1907	1908
Nuisances dealt with ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	702	730
Legal noticees served ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	38	57
Complaints received ... ... ... ... ... ...	99	83
Midden-privies converted into water-closets or abolished ...	132	129
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases ... ...	74	131
Articles of bedding, etc., disinfected ... ...	1176	1692
Ashpits emptied ... ... ...	3,366	3,133
Ashbins emptied... ... ...	155,202	177,902
Loads of refuse dealt with... ...	4,502	4,319
Gallons of water used for flushing ... ...	502,700	414,600

### Visits to Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever .....	135
Diphtheria .....	65
Plthisis.....	23
Puerperal Fever .....	9
Enteric Fever .....	7
Erysipelas.....	5
Measles .....	8
Smallpox, Cancer, etc. .....	5

257 visits were made to cases of infectious diseases. At the first visit to each case the whole of the premises were inspected, and any sanitary defects were ordered to be remedied. At these visits, too, many little hints are given to occupiers on subjects which come under our notice, but which do not legally affect us, and the information is appreciated. 131 rooms were thoroughly disinfected by stoving with formalin vapour, and, in those diseases which necessitated such a course, by stripping the old papers from the walls, as many as six layers being frequently the case, or by washing with chloride of lime solution. 1692 articles of bedding and wearing apparel were also disinfected by steam at the destructor works. No articles were damaged or disfigured, thus proving that with careful treatment no danger of this need be feared.

### Cleansing Department.

MONTH.	Ashbins Emptied.	Ashpits Emptied.	Loads of Refuse dealt with.	Mortar Sold.	Tons.
					Tons.
January ... ... ...	16,240	309	397	83	
February ... ... ...	15,871	204	336	91	
March ... ... ...	13,360	150	321	41	
April ... ... ...	16,189	303	385	71	
May ... ... ...	13,117	233	360	92	
June ... ... ...	10,475	245	318	12	
July ... ... ...	16,561	317	431	6	
August ... ... ...	13,335	284	331	7	
September ... ... ...	13,809	156	313	54	
October ... ... ...	17,380	364	501	60	
November ... ... ...	17,145	347	315	31	
December ... ... ...	14,420	251	311	35	
Whole Year ... ...	177,902	3,133	4,319	583	

89 moveable receptacles have been provided during the year in lieu of ashpits, and 166 ashbins have been repaired or replaced at my request. A number of repairs have been executed at the Destructor Works, notably on the fan engine. This was taken to the workshops of two firms consecutively before a satisfactory working condition

was arrived at. This necessitated a stoppage of work for some days. To deal with the refuse collected by the carts, or delivered by the tradesmen, a tip had to be provided, and this was found for a short time on the Gytes' estate, and afterwards by Mr. Robinson, of Wingate, with whom an arrangement has been made for similar occasions in the future.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my thanks to you, gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy towards me, and to the officials for their valuable assistance.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ERNEST LORD,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

COUNCIL OFFICES,

LEVENSHULME,

*23rd February 1909.*

